(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement schemes.

(iii) The concept of "all men-all jobs" is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(v) Improvement in the availability and untilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(vi) A number of systems improvement and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

(b) The FOB prices of 1989 as indicated in one of the international marketing publications, are given below:

	In US $ per tonne	
	Coking Coal	Non-Coking
(a) Australia	50.40	37.10 to 39.73
(b) China	38.90 to 43.70	38.90
(c) S. Africa	N.A.	32.80–33.00
(d) Canada	50.50	N.A.
(e) U.S.S.R.	46.90	N.A.
(f) U.S.A.	48.22 to 52.85	N.A.
(g) Newzealand	55.25	N.A.
(h) India* (Weighted average price of raw Coal)	20.50 (Rs. 349.00)	13.30 (Rs. 226.00)

*Note: Indian coal is not comparable to most of the coal Traded in the international market, since it has less fuel value.

Impact on India of the fall in the prices of oil in the international market

*12. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the impact on India of the fall of prices of oil in the international market;

(b) how far it will help Government in managing the balance of payment position; and

(c) what is the quantum of crude and crude products likely to be imported during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Import of crude oil is made both under term contracts with national oil companies of producing countries as well as through purchases in the sport market. The prices under all the term contracts are also variable market related prices based on spot market Quotations of crudes which are heavily traded on the spot market. Advantage of any fall in the prices of oil

in the international market is, therefore, derived in purchases under term contracts also. The impact of the fall in prices would,therefore result in savings of foreign exchange against purchases made during this period. However, the international market in crude oil and petroleum products is very volatils and is subject to wide fluctuations. Although the prices are currently low, this may be a short term seasonal phenomena.

(c) The quantum of crude and petroleum products likely to be imported dring 1990-91 has not yet been finalised.

Report on the Mahabir colliery disaster

*13. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1464 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the H.B. Ghosh Committee has since submitted its report on the Mahabir Colliery disaster which took place on the 12th November, 1989; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The H.B. Ghosh Committee has submitted its report in regard to the accident on 13-11-89 due to inrush of water in Mahabir Colliery. Narainkuri Seam was being worked below old unapproachable and water-logged workings of Nega Seam. Blasting operations were being conducted at the working face of No. 40 Dip. At about 4.30 AM, six shots were fired at this face and after waiting for about five minutes, when the shot firing gang was making arrangements to fire the second round of shots, there was an inrush of water from an abandoned shaft connected to overlying Nega Seam flooding the dip side workings. Out of 221 persons working in Narainkuri seam, all but 71 persons could come out through the working shaft before it became unusable due to rise in water level. The trapped persons took shelter in the rise sideworkeo workings and telephohnic communication with them was established. By 9.00 AM on 13.11.89, collection of resources to pump the water out and drill a rescue bore hole were started. Actual evacuation of trapped miners by a capsule through a bore hole was started at 2.45 AM on 16.11.89. All the 65 survivors were rescued alive by 8.45 AM on 16.11.89. The remaining six persons died due to drowning and dead bodies of two persons were recovered on 12.12.89, three on 19.12.89 and the last dead body was recovered on 23.12.89. The Committee have stated that it "appreciates the speed with which resources were collected and put to best use. It is an unique instance in world mining history."

The Ghosh Committee has observed that "what really went wrong with the system to cause the accident of this nature is not easy to explain in a few words. It seems to be a tragically simple story of combination of errors and